



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE HABITS OF THE GORILLA.

BY W. WINWOOD READE.

NEW ENGLAND has the honor of having discovered this celebrated ape. The first specimen was brought to Boston by Dr. Savage. It was discovered by Professor Jeffries Wyman, and named by him after the wild men (*gorillæ*) which Hanno mentions.

Professor Wyman, however, advanced no hypothesis as to their identity. It has recently been suggested, and even asserted, that the gorilla of Hanno, and the gorillas of the present day are the same. But that is a conjecture, not *impossible* indeed, but incapable of anything like proof.

Hanno, a Carthaginian, made an exploring voyage down the west coast of Africa. His log, or Periplus, has been preserved. He records the number of days occupied by his voyage, mentions its chief incidents, and describes the features of the coast sometimes with minuteness. The two great authorities upon the Periplus are Gosselin (*Geographie des Anciens*) and Rennell (*Geography of Herodotus*). The former, a sceptic, will not allow that Hanno sailed beyond the limits of the Barbary coast; an hypothesis to be rejected: while Rennell, evidently desirous of taking him as far as he can, fixes the end of his voyage at a little below Sierra Leone. Now the chimpanzee is found in that region; but the gorilla is found only close to the equator. In the first place, therefore, Hanno's voyage must be stretched to the equator.

Allowing that he did reach the equator, and that the volcanic peak of Fernando Po was the Currus Deorum, "the flames of which seemed to touch the sky," another

difficulty remains to be disposed of. He says that the gorillæ defended themselves with stones, and escaped over the precipices. Now there are no precipices on the coast of the gorilla country, and the gorilla of the nineteenth century is not in the habit of throwing stones.

The northern limit of its *habitat* I ascertained to be Cape St. John. I have not penetrated to its southern limit, but it is probably Loango. No good reason can be assigned why the gorilla should not be found wherever the chimpanzee is found; but specimens of the former have not yet been procured from the backwoods of Sierra Leone and Liberia, where the latter ape is met with frequently enough. How far east the gorilla country extends is of course unknown. The Fans are the most inland tribe at present known east of the Gaboon. They told me that in the distant country to the north-east whence they came, the gorilla (*ngi*) was more common than in the Gaboon; so common that they could sometimes hear his cry from their towns.

The gorilla moves from place to place, but is almost always found in the thickest part of the virgin forest. His migrations, if they can be so called, are probably determined by the food seasons. He is very partial to one or two kinds of fruit. I was also shown a kind of grass growing in small tufts; wherever that grass grows, the gorilla is found.

Waterton says that the *monkeys have no home*. This is certainly true of the gorilla and of the other anthropoid apes, and it is this which renders it so difficult to shoot them in a country which is one vast forest, with here and there a meadow or a marsh. The gorilla builds a nest, it is true, but not as a residence. The male arranges this rude bed of boughs when the female is pregnant; she is

confined on it, and it is then deserted. Possibly a gorilla might be detected sleeping in one now and then, as birds often roost in old nests, but it is not made for that purpose.

The gorilla is partly terrestrial in its habits. It moves on all fours, sometimes assuming the erect position, but with difficulty, and only for a short time. As it goes along it breaks the branches of trees on either side; sometimes it ascends a tree to feed upon the fruit. The plantations of the natives are usually at some distance from their villages; the gorilla frequently visits them to eat the plantain and the sugar-cane, especially at morn and eve. At night it chooses a large tree to sleep in. Its ordinary cry is of a plaintive character; when enraged, it is a kind of bark, or short, abrupt roar. It does not attack man without provocation. When assailed or wounded, it charges on all fours, seizes the offensive object, bites it, and immediately retreats.

The gorilla is polygamous, and the male is frequently solitary; in fact, I have never seen more than one track at a time: but there is no doubt that both gorillas and chimpanzees are also found in bands. The males are said to fight with one another in the rutting season. The dung is like that of man, but notched in a peculiar manner. There appears to be little difference in the habits of the gorilla and the chimpanzee. The former ape is confined to a smaller area, at least as far as we know. The chimpanzee is said by the natives to be more intelligent, and less ferocious. They also, though feeding on the same kind of food, appear to prefer different sorts; for which reason it is, probably, that they are found in different localities.

I have seen one young gorilla in a state of captivity; it

was as docile as the young chimpanzee, which I also saw. It has been asserted, however, on good authority, that the young gorilla is sometimes perfectly untamable. All the authorities upon the habits of the gorilla are cited by Professor Huxley in his "Man's Place in Nature," with the exception of a curious passage in Monboddo's "Origin and Progress of Language" (vol. i. p. 281). M. Du Chailu, in his "Journey to Ashango Land," also gives some details which are interesting, rather as tending to confirm what was previously known, than as throwing any new light upon the subject.

In fact, there is nothing remarkable in the habits of the gorilla, nothing which broadly distinguishes it from the other African apes, nor even from the ourang outang, which also builds a nest, which also assumes the erect posture now and then, and which also charges when wounded or brought to bay.

THE MOSS-ANIMALS, OR FRESH WATER POLYZOA.

PLATE 5.

BY ALPHEUS HYATT.

(Concluded from page 136.)

ALTHOUGH *Fredericella* has been more particularly referred to in the preceding Articles, they are, with one exception, almost equally applicable to all of the *Phylactolæmata*. This exception is the round disc, or *lophophore*, which in the other four genera changes to a horse shoe shape. (Compare Plate 3, fig. 4, with Plate 4, fig. 1.)

These four have, like the *Fredericella*, very euphonious names, *Plumatella*, *Pectinatella*, *Lophopus*, and *Cristatella*; and, while preserving a general identity, vary